

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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SBA TO CLOSE ATMORE AND SARALAND OFFICES SBA URGES RETURN YOUR SBA LOAN APPLICATION NOW

Mobile, Ala. – The Small Business Administration (SBA) will close its Atmore (Escambia County) and Saraland (Mobile County) Disaster Outreach Centers at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12. That means that homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners have just one week to get personal help with their SBA disaster loan applications, according to SBA Acting Disaster Area Director Frank Skaggs.

SBA disaster loan staff is still available to answer any questions you might have, help you complete your application and accept your completed application. Our temporary offices remain open in Escambia County at (formerly) Fred's Store, 120 Lindberg Street in Atmore, Monday through Friday with hours 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and in Mobile County at the Saraland Civic Center, 716 Mae Street in Saraland, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both offices will close on Friday, August 12 at 1:00 p.m.

"Don't wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. We want to be sure you get the help you need to recover from the disaster. We don't want anyone to miss the September 8, application deadline for physical damages," Skaggs said today.

According to Skaggs, most homeowners, renters, and business owners will find they are not fully covered for their damages and will need additional funds to complete repairs. "But we can't help if you don't complete and turn in your SBA disaster loan application," said Skaggs.

SBA is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations that received damage during the disaster. For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grant assistance.

Even if you have insurance, you should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and register for assistance. This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs, Skaggs added.

Information on SBA loan applications is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be taken to one of the remaining offices open or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline to return applications for physical damage is September 8, 2005; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 10, 2006.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster